

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of August 12, 2008 is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected independent claims 62 and 89, as well as most of the dependent claims, as being unpatentable over the prior art, including the Furusawa reference (U.S.P. 6,220,935) and the Redeker reference (US Publication 2003/0041879). However, the Examiner also indicated the dependent claims 71-73 contained allowable subject matter. Therefore, independent claims 62 and 89 have now been amended as indicated above. For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 62 and 89, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 62 has now been amended so as to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 71, and claim 71 has been cancelled. Therefore, in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 62 and the claims that depend therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

In addition, independent claim 89 has also been amended so as to incorporate subject matter corresponding to that of allowable dependent claim 71. In particular, the substrate processing method of independent claim 89 now recites that the holder suction unit communicates with a vacuum source such that the holder suction unit performs said sucking via a vacuum from the vacuum source. As noted by the Examiner in item 25 of page 8 of the Office Action, the prior art does not teach the particulars of the holder suction unit as now recited in amended independent claim 89. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 89 and the claims that depend therefrom are also now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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